

**HANDBOOK OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**—Robert Shes-tack, TH. G.R.P., P.T.R. Technical Director, Department of Physical Therapy, Washington County Hospital, Hagerston, Maryland; Director, Department of Physical Therapy, and Consulting Physical Therapist, Kings Daughters Hospital, Martinsburg, West Virginia. Springer Publishing Company, Inc., New York 10, N. Y. 1956. 199 pages, \$4.25.

The author, a physical therapist, has written this book so that the doctor will know how to order physical therapy. In telling the doctor how to order physical therapy, he lists the various types of modalities which are available. The doctor is expected to diagnose the condition of his patient and to choose from the list of modalities those which he wishes the physical therapist to apply. How these are to be applied is left to the discretion of the physical therapist.

He goes on to discuss the various modalities available for the application of heat, such as radiant heat and infrared radiation, diathermy, microwave diathermy, ultrasound, ultraviolet irradiation, galvanic current, low frequency currents, electrodiagnosis, faradic current, paraffin baths, hydrotherapy, massage and exercise. He discusses briefly the physiology of these agents and then relates the therapeutic indications and contraindications for them. He has chosen good textbooks from which to gain this material, but it has been briefed to such a point as to give no clear conception of the agent and its particular place. With the rapid progress being made in physical medicine, many of the applications are no longer in use, while many newer methods are not mentioned. The author has attempted a large undertaking.

"Since the examining physician must make the diagnosis before the therapist can administer treatment, we have limited ourselves merely to a discussion of treatment." (Page 96) "Because of the many therapeutic methods available to the doctor, he is sometimes at a loss to determine which to prescribe; in general, he may employ the following plan": And so a physical therapist describes to the doctor of medicine how a patient with arthritis and rheumatic conditions, degenerative joint disease, peripheral nerve conditions, neurological conditions, peripheral vascular conditions, acute joint injuries, allied conditions and orthopedic disorders, fractures, hand injuries, poliomyelitis, genitourinary conditions, dermatological conditions, burns, eye, ear, nose and throat conditions should be treated. It would seem to the reviewer a reflection on the medical schools and the medical profession that a therapist should consider it necessary to write a book for the purpose of telling physicians how to treat their patients.

The books listed in the bibliography should be of real value to the physician who wishes to prescribe physical therapy for his patients.

\* \* \*

**A HISTORY OF THE THERAPY OF TUBERCULOSIS AND THE CASE OF FREDERIC CHOPIN**—Esmond R. Long, M.D., Director of Medical Research, National Tuberculosis Association. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1956. 71 pages, \$2.00.

In his Logan Clendening lecture Dr. Long gives a good readable summary of the treatment of tuberculosis from ancient to modern times. Much material is compressed into a brief space and no important phase of the subject is left untouched. As to the other lecture—The Illness and Medical Care of Frederic Chopin—the reviewer can make no critical judgment. It is however an interesting tale. Apparently Chopin fell into the same difficulty that Laennec, John Keats and the Brontes all succumbed to: Rest only when they could not get on their feet, then as soon as they were better, off on restless activities again despite hemorrhages and other severe symptoms. The two essays bring out well the great distance we have come in therapy of tuberculosis.

**ORAL CANCER AND TUMORS OF THE JAWS**—George S. Sharp, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.R. (Ther.), Professor of Pathology, School of Dentistry, Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine; Weldon K. Bullock, M.D., M.Sc.(Path.), Associate Clinical Professor of Pathology, School of Medicine, and John W. Hazlet, D.D.S., Lecturer, Oral Tumor Pathology, School of Dentistry; all from the University of Southern California. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956. 561 pages, \$15.00.

All lesions of the mouth and jaws are covered with a pleasing clarity of description and without confusing or unnecessary words. Especially impressive are the great number of photographs. Of course, they would be much better in color but the cost of a book of that type would be prohibitive except perhaps for the Government.

I found that viewing the photographs with an ordinary magnifying glass brings out the lesions with much more clarity and gives them a somewhat third dimensional character.

They will provide for the surgeon an excellent aid in arriving at differential diagnoses. I can highly recommend this book for those who are called on frequently to diagnosis and treat lesions of the mouth and jaws.

\* \* \*

**MEDITATIONS ON MEDICINE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION—Past and Present**—I. Snapper, M.D. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1956. 138 pages, \$3.75.

The title of this small and unusual book scarcely reflects the nature of its contents. The book consists of three essays which, in general, treat of the contributions made directly or indirectly by Dutch physicians to the growth and development of American medicine, and the whole is held together and given a degree of unity and consistency by a plea for the greater recognition of the art as opposed to the science of medicine.

The first of the three essays details the background, work and influence of pioneer Dutch physicians, surgeons and midwives who participated in the settlement of the colony of New Netherlands established at the mouths of the Hudson and Delaware rivers, and thus provides a picture of the earliest medicine of this country.

The second essay follows the origins and fate of clinical Hippocratic medicine to its restoration under the great teacher-physician Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738), and finally traces the influence of Boerhaavian principles and teachings through his pupils on the organization of the first American medical schools and on American medical practice.

The first two of these essays constitute a historical preliminary to the third, in which distinctions are drawn between bedside and experimental medicine. The author voices his concern for the future of medicine with the loss of, and underemphasis given to, Hippocratic clinical medicine in the curricula of our present-day medical schools. The author correctly points out that this loss was due to Flexner who, despite his great contribution to medical education in getting rid of the diploma mills, had little understanding of the meaning of Hippocratic medicine. The great weakness of the Flexner report in this regard needs wider recognition and the author has much of importance to say on the subject.

All those interested in medical education will find Dr. Snapper's book profitable reading and many a clinician will derive satisfaction from it. The subject is a most cogent one in this day when more and more pressure is being put on medical schools to install "absolute" full-time which inevitably will add further to the loss of Hippocratic principles.

If a word of criticism may be offered it is to the effect that in its historical portion there is an undue reliance upon secondary sources.